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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT STAFF

CIA/OCI/WHIZWH

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Date: 3 September 74

Item No.: WH-02

DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE RESIGNATION OF DUTCH DEFENSE MINISTER

[REDACTED]

Defense Minister Vredeling's future in the Dutch cabinet remains in question, although the cabinet has decided for the time being to keep him in office.

Opposition parties have called for a parliamentary debate on September 3, and leaders of two of the five government coalition parties have requested private meetings with Prime Minister den Uyl to discuss the matter. No reaction has been received from NATO Secretary General Luns, the most maligned of Vredeling's targets. Relations between Vredeling and Luns are likely to be strained during the coming months. This could influence the cabinet toward a decision to ease Vredeling out after the present furor dies down.

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Even some members of Vredeling's own Labor Party have commented publicly about Vredeling's "problems"--this is not the first ill-considered statement he has made--and the fact that he waxes hot and cold on cabinet service.